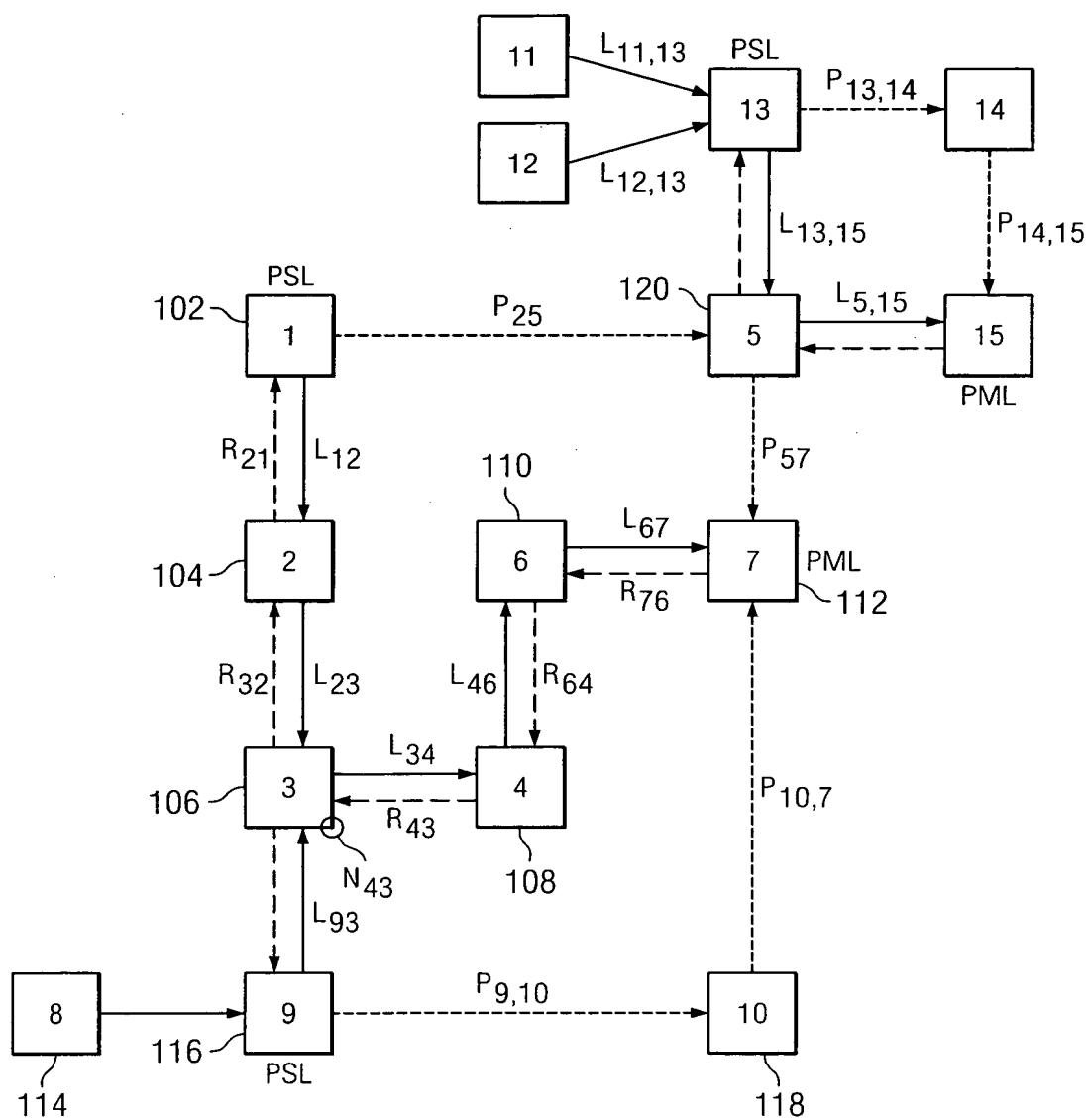


1/2



FIG. 1



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*FIG. 2*



PSD=PROTECTION SWITCH DOMAIN (ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WORKING AND PROTECTION PATH: IDENTIFICATION OF SWITCHING ELEMENTS)

RNT=REVERSE NOTIFICATION TREE (ESTABLISHMENT OF REVERSE PATH FOR NOTIFICATION OF ALIVENESS)

INIT=INITIALIZE

CONF=CONFIRM

DATA=DATA FLOW

ALIVENESS=NOTIFICATION OF WORKING PATH STATUS